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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

ALAJEM, SARA ET AL

Serial No: 09/727,480

Filed: 12 April, 2000

**For: OLIGONUCLEOTIDES AND
ASSEMBLIES THEREOF USEFUL
IN THE DETECTION OF THE
PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF
TARGET NUCLEIC ACID
SEQUENCES IN A SAMPLE**

Examiner: Jeffrey Norman Fredman

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231
Box AF**

Group Art Unit: 1655

Attorney
Docket: 00/21400

RESPONSE AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Sir:

This is in response to the United States Patent and Trademark Office Action mailed July 23, 2002, which response is being made on or before January 23, 2003, for which a three-months extension fee is due and is being submitted herewith. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the claims:

Please amend claim 87 without prejudice as follows:

87. (Amended) A method of detecting a presence or an absence of a target nucleic acid sequence in a sample, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting the sample with an oligonucleotide system under hybridization conditions so as to form a reaction mixture, said